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SPORTS

Despite Sweet 16 loss, Winchester boys basketball enjoys another successful season

JOE MCCONNELL | SPORTS EDITOR

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Winchester High boys basketball junior Gibby Ketterer dribbles the ball up court during a game against Wakefield earlier this year on Jan. 6. COURTESY PHOTO/SEAN O'CALLAGHAN

It didn't go the way that they had hoped, but that had a lot more t
one team playing perhaps its best game of the year.

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Winchester High boys basketball Coach John Fleming pretty much summed up his team's 71-42 loss to host Bridgewater-Raynham (18-4, sixth seed) in a Sweet 16 Division 1 state tournament game on Tuesday night, March 3, that way.

The Trojans will now take on Bishop Feehan (15-7), the 14th seed, in an Elite 8 game on March 6 at Bridgewater-Raynham, starting at 7:30 p.m.

The Red & Black (17-5) came into the postseason as the 22nd seed. They started off well after knocking off Middlesex League rival Lexington in the Round of 32, 65-59 on Feb. 27.

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Winchester High boys basketball junior Max Phillips goes up for a layup during a home game a
Wakefield earlier this year on Jan. 6. COURTESY PHOTO/SEAN O'CALLAGHAN

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Despite owning identical 16-4 regular season records, the Minutemen (16-5) were the 11th seed. They had the home game advantage, but that didn't deter Fleming's squad that went on to beat them for the second time this year to secure the rubber game of this impromptu series, when it counted the most. But the game against the Trojans was a different story.

"Bridgewater-Raynham was just terrific," Fleming said. "I saw them play in person on Saturday (Feb. 28, against Lawrence, a 63-41 win), and then watched around six of their games online. But against us, it looked like they played their best game of the year. I was a bit surprised to see a few of their secondary players make so many shots at such a high percentage rate, even when we were (guarding them closely)."

But Fleming also admitted that "they were clearly the most athletic team that we had played this season, and I think that was ultimately the biggest factor in the game," while adding, "their defense and aggressiveness just overwhelmed us. We turned the ball over far too many times, while giving up too many extra chance points by not grabbing rebounds."

Overall, the Winchester coach has few complaints on how the season played out.

"I think many people would say that this team exceeded expectations," he said. "(It was based on) losing last year's graduating seniors and a few others, plus the unknown of Dawson English's comeback (after tearing) his ACL (one year ago), but this team really rallied together to put together a great season. They just missed sharing the league title by one game."

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Winchester High boys basketball sophomore Evan Wilson shoots a three from the corner in fro
teammates on the bench during a game against Wakefield on Jan. 6. COURTESY PHOTO/SEAN O'C

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For the second year in a row, the Red & Black won 16 regular season games. In that same time span, this same group won 33 games, a league title – almost a second one – and a tournament game.

“They have so much to be proud of,” added the veteran Winchester coach.

Besides the talented senior trio of Carson Sarpong, Harrison Burbine and English, sophomore Evan Wilson emerged as a future star.

“(Wilson) finished the season strong (as a starter after Burbine got hurt), and will likely enter next season as one of the top Middlesex League shooters,” Fleming said. “I’m expecting him to add to his game to become more than just a top tier shooter.”

Fleming was also pleasantly surprised with the overall depth on the varsity roster.

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“It really shows the level of dedication and effort that our guys put into this team during the off season, before carrying it over into the season,” he said. “I’m really proud of this group, and can’t wait to see how the returning players continue their own journey into next season.”

Among those returnees is junior Devon Ryan, who started every game this season, while his classmate Jonathan Cutler started in a number of games. Combined them with Wilson, and Fleming is already looking forward to another winning season.

Juniors Max Phillips, essentially the team’s sixth man this year, and Gibby Ketterer, who was a backup guard behind Burbine for the majorit
season, will also play pivotal roles on next year’s team, according
Fleming.

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Winchester High boys basketball junior Devon Ryan shoots a three from the corner in front of the Watertown bench during a game earlier this year in Watertown on Jan. 13. COURTESY PHOTO/SEAN O'CALLAGHAN

Junior Sam Christmas, and sophomores Michael McDonough and Will Fiorentino didn't log a ton of minutes this season, but they still showed “tons of promise in practice,” added the coach. “They really pushed the first group (to get them ready for the games).”

But that doesn’t mean Fleming won’t miss this year’s five graduating seniors, and the many minutes that they logged on the court. Besides the Big 3 of Sarpong, English and Burbine, Adam Fiorentino and Declan Ross also contributed to the winning throughout their final high school season.

Joe McConnell is a longtime, award-winning sports editor for numerous North Shore publications. He began covering Winchester sports for the News in November 2024 and is currently its Sports Editor. He can be reached at editor@winchesternews.org.

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SPORTS

Winchester boys hockey celebrates another winning season at its annual awards night

It's been three weeks since the Winchester High boys hockey team (12-10-2, 17th seed) last suited up to play a game. It was against Catholic Memorial (19-3-1, top seed) in the Round of 16 on Feb. 28 at Allston's Warrior Ice Arena. The game was rather competitive throughout,

JOE MCCONNELL | SPORTS EDITOR
March 24, 2026

SPORTS

Following successful season, Winchester boys basketball team reconvenes for awards

After three months of games and daily practices, the Winchester High boys basketball team was able to rack up 17 wins, while losing just five times, which included going 1-1 in the Division 1 state tournament. They ended up being eliminated by host Bridgewater-Raynham in the Sweet 16, 71-42 on

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Behind every successful high school athletic department, there usually lies established youth sports organizations where athletes sign up via their parents to learn the nuances of the sport. In Winchester, Coach Ryan Errico's high school wrestling program recently concluded another fine season that was filled with team and individual

JOE MCCONNELL | SPORTS EDITOR
March 19, 2026

The final and most prestigious high school wrestling tournament of the year is now in the books. Last weekend's All-New England Meet, held annually in Providence, R.I., marked the end of another year for the sport that started all the way back on the Monday after Thanksgiving. The

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NEWS

Winchester ZBA waives town regulations to move Washington/Swanton project along

Town officials have approved waivers of regulations for a residential/commercial development project at Washington and Swanton streets. The Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) on March 19 approved the waivers for a 40B project at 278-292 Washington St. and 12 and 16-20 Swanton St. in a special meeting preceding a

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NEWS

John Bellaire, 22, among youngest townwide winners in Winchester history

He won all eight precincts after a door-to-door campaign that emphasized direct voter contact over institutional backing.

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EVENTS

Network for Social Justice to celebrate 35th anniversary

The following was submitted by the Network for Social Justice: The Network For Social Justice turns 35 this spring! There will be a celebration on Saturday, April 11, from 7-9:30 p.m., at the Sons of Italy, 117 Swanton St., Winchester. Connect with your local friends and neighbors as

March 25, 2026

EVENTS

Winchester Community Music School presents Jazz Jam Session

The following was submitted by the Winchester Community Music School: On Saturday, March 28, join the community at Winchester Community Music School, 407 Highland Ave., for a Jazz Jam Session, an afternoon of fun, spontaneous jazz playing, beginning at 3 p.m. Instrumentalists and vocalists of all skill levels are

March 25, 2026

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